

THE TIMES, THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1992

# EPA tests toxic drums left at plant

SOMERVILLE (AP) — Environmental officials are testing the contents of hundreds of drums holding toxic and flammable liquids left behind after a color and pigment manufacturing plant here closed up shop two weeks ago.

Scientists from the federal Environmental Protection Agency set up a makeshift laboratory at Color Technology Inc. Tuesday to identify the containers' chemical compositions and prepare them for disposal.

"We've determined that the owner has walked away from this, leaving behind lots of solvents and flammable liquids used in paints and coatings," environmental scientist Jeff Bechtel told The Star-Ledger of Newark for yesterday's editions.

On Monday, emergency officials mapped out fire evacuation routes

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— Jeff Bechtel, environmental scientist

for residents living within a half-mile of the building on Cornell Boulevard.

Owner Carl Curtis closed the 15-year-old business May 27, after the Elizabethtown Water Co. in January shut off the company's emergency water line due to unpaid bills. Shortly afterward, the Somerville Fire Department condemned it.

Fire official Barry Van Horn told the newspaper he had since been checking on the company and on

May 17, received a report that workers were loading trucks with equipment.

Ten days later, he determined it was abandoned.

Curtis has denied deserting the building and said he expects workers to clean it out soon.

"I plan on taking care of my obligations," Curtis said. He added that he plans to sell the building or start a new manufacturing plant.

Bechtel said if Curtis does not clean up the chemicals, the EPA would use Superfund monies to finance the disposal project.

One resident who lives across the street from the plant said she was relieved to hear the drums would be gone soon.

"All the neighbors were concerned," said Clara Garo. "There were always fumes there when that thing was going."

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## SYNAGOGUE NEWS More Synagogue News, A10

### Traditional

■ THE JEWISH CENTER (TRADITIONAL-EGALITARIAN): 435 Nassau St., Princeton; Rabbi Dr. Dov Peretz Elkins, Cantor Murray E. Simon; (609) 921-0100.

Tomorrow: Nursery graduation 6 p.m.; Services 8 p.m. honoring staff member Helen Schlaffer and Congregant of the Year Jerry Kurshan; Saturday: Services 10 a.m., Tot Shabbat 11 a.m.; Bat Mitzvah ceremony of Ilana Goldfarb (morning); Bar Mitz-

vah ceremony of Andrew Sirkin (afternoon); text study with Rabbi David Silverman 3:30 p.m.; Sunday:

Confirmation and Fabian Award for Excellence in Teaching Presentation, 7:30 p.m.

Mon. June 9: Drop-in-Lounge 12:30 p.m., Board meeting 8 p.m.

Shavuot Services — Tues. June 10, 8 p.m., study session with Professor Esther Schor of Princeton University; Wed. June 11 and Thurs. June 12: 10 a.m.

Mid-week minyanim are held Sunday 8:30 a.m. and Wednesday 7 a.m. with breakfast.

### Reform

■ CONGREGATION BETH CHAIM, 329 Village Rd. E., W. Windsor; Rabbi Eric B. Wisnia, Cantor Stuart Binder; (609) 799-9401.

Tomorrow: Chai Club and Services 8 p.m., Oneg Shabbat; Saturday: 10 a.m., B'nai Mitzvah Martin Hershy and Samantha Brodsky; Gala art exhibit and auction 8 p.m. (preview 7 p.m.), door prizes, raffle, wine and cheese, bagels, cake and coffee, \$7 per person; information 275-7344; Sunday: Board Constitution meeting 7 p.m.

Shavuot Services — Tues. June 10: Confirmation 7:30 p.m.; Wed. June 11: Yizkor service 7 p.m.